

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 40-44 are allowed and that claims 9, 11, 13, 15, 28 and 37 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and that the rejection of claim 45 has been withdrawn (see Advisory Action dated December 6, 2006).

Claims 1-7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20-25, 29-35 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Geist in view of Schmeidler and further in view of Bisbee et al. Independent claims have been amended to include inherent language that was inherent in the original claim. For example, the generating of the digital signature verification map containing a plurality of acceptable message header identifiers associated with a public key certificate identifier is done in response to a determination that a digital signature verification error has occurred wherein the digital signature verification error is based on a received message header identifier associated with a public key certification identifier. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach this subject matter. Additional support will be set forth below. However, Applicant wishes to address claim 46 first since it appears that this claim may have been misapprehended.

As to claim 46, the office action alleges that Geist teaches continually updating the digital signature verification map, that contains a plurality of acceptable message header identifiers, to include aliases to a common subject associated with a certificate, citing column 5-6 line 38. However as noted above Geist is not directed to a system that performs such an operation, but to the contrary, the cited portion refers to verifying a digital image signature as stored in an image TIFF file. Applicant is unable to find any mention of updating a digital signature verification

map to accommodate aliases since Geist is not directed to such a system. In addition Applicant is unable to find any mention of aliases or any reason to deal with such an issue in Geist. If the rejection is maintained Applicant respectfully requests a showing by line number as to where the claimed subject matter is allegedly taught in Geist as Applicant is unable to find such a teaching.

Claim 1, among other independent claims, requires, in response to a determined digital signature verification error, generating a digital signature verification map containing a plurality of acceptable message header identifiers associated with the public key certificate identifier. Hence, once a determination that a digital signature verification error has occurred based on the received message header identifiers associated with a public key certificate identifier, a digital signature verification map is generated that contains a plurality of acceptable message header identifiers associated with a public key certificate identifier. Among other advantages, if a mismatch is detected between, for example, an incoming message header and an acceptable transport header identifier, the message can still be accepted as being authentic since the digital signature verification map is generated that includes acceptable message headers in response to the verification error. In one example, the received message header identifier that caused the error is placed in the verification map. (See for example, new claim 48). Also, the claim requires determining the digital signature verification error "based on a received message header identifier associated with a public key certificate identifier" and the final action alleges that any certificate that is sent has a header and payload. However, this point appears to overlook claim language. The claim does not claim a certificate header. Instead, it claims a received message header identifier associated with a public key certificate identifier. In any event, the Geist reference does not teach the generation of the claimed digital signature verification map in response to detecting a digital signature verification error using a received message header

identifier associated with a public key certificate identifier. Instead, the cited portion of column 4 refers to directory entries and custom tags that are used for specifying an authentication index. It is not concerned with messages, such as email message headers or any message headers as claimed. Moreover, it teaches a data file structure that embeds a digital signature verification key within the particular type of image data file to validate the image data autonomously such as without consulting large external databases of public keys or certificates. In addition, in column 6, lines 8-12, if a certificate fails to verify "then the process stops and the image is designated as not validated as step 307, and the routine is exited at 309." As such, even for argument sake, the Geist reference does not determine a digital signature verification error and in response thereto, generate a digital signature verification map as claimed. As noted above, it also fails to deal with message header information and other claimed subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant also respectfully reasserts the relevant remarks made in the response to final action.

The other dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter. For example, as to claim 2, the claim requires that the generating of the digital signature verification map in response to the determined digital signature verification error includes storing at least one acceptable message header identifier as a digital signature verification map entry in response to determining the digital signature verification error. The office action cites Geist, namely FIGs. 2 and 3, and in particular, the map entries of FIG. 2. However, the entries described in these figures are not based on determining a digital signature verification error nor are they message header identifiers that are acceptable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim is in condition for allowance.

Also, as to claim 3, the office action cites Geist, namely columns 3-5 as allegedly teaching that the generation of the digital signature verification map includes mapping the plurality of acceptable message header identifiers on a per-certificate subject identification data basis. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited portions do not teach the claimed subject matter as they are silent as to message header identifiers and corresponding mapping as claimed. The other dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Claims 8 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Geist in view of Schneidler and further in view of Bisbee as applied to claims 1, 10, 20 and 29 and further in view of Cooper. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the language of claim 1 is not found in claim 38 and as such, the claim has not been properly rejected as the rejection does not address specific claim language. Also, none of the cited portions of the references describe generating “a trusted alias map containing a plurality of acceptable message identifiers” and displaying at least one subject alias in response to verifying a digital signature associated with a public key certificate identifier. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is also in condition for allowance.

Claim 45 is also believed to be in condition for allowance since the references are silent as to trusted alias maps that identify multiple public key certificates to be associated with at least one email name. It is alleged that the claim is solely directed to an intended use. Applicant respectfully challenges this rejection if the claim is not allowed since to the contrary there is stated data namely trusted alias map that identifies specific data namely multiple key certificates that are to be associated with at least one email name.

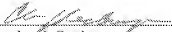
New claims 47 and 48 are also believed to be in condition for allowance since the references do not teach that the digital signature verification map is updated data based on user

input data or verifying a subsequent message based on the digital signature verification map, and wherein the received message header identifier is added to the digital signature verification map if it caused a digital signature verification error.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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